



Willows Parent Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes: 17 June 2015

Call to Order: 7:15pm

Approval of the Agenda: The 17 June 2015 agenda was approved by Stephanie Novak, seconded by Chelsea Wozniak

Approval of the Minutes: The 20 May 2015 meeting minutes were approved by Chelsea Wozniak, seconded by Stephanie Novak

Attended: 7 people (including Vice Principal Christine Patterson)

Break Out Question: What do you love about September? What do you dread about September?

Chair report: Saying “Thanks!”

- See copy of report in PAC binder and below

Updates:

- Bus Pilot Project: All in all, a success! 90% of classes used a bus and teachers (and potential parent drivers) were very appreciative. We will do this again next year.
- Gaga Ball Pit: The structure is ordered and will be installed and hopefully ready for September.
- Wifi survey results: From Christine Patterson – 56% return rate; 71% approved and 29% disapproved of supplying wifi in the school – This will be in place in part in September.

September first week plans:

- School supplies arrival: Call will go out for help with unloading/organizing delivery (e-mail willowspac@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out!)
- **School supply pickup: Tuesday, 8 September 2015**
- Kindergarten Welcome: Wednesday and Thursday, 9 and 10 September 2015 (help needed!)
- Meet the teacher/ ice cream social: **Thursday, 24 September**

Ideas:

- Angela asked about garbage on the schoolyard.
 - o We discussed possibly making this a responsibility of different classes. We will talk more come September.
- Angela has also been asked about possible end of the year events: a picnic? A band?
 - o General consensus = June is too busy already!
- Stephanie asked about parent education
 - o We will look at possible topics and speakers in September

Adjournment: 8:17pm

- **Next meeting – 16 September 2015**
- For more PAC information subscribe to www.willowspac.ca or like us on Facebook “Willows PAC”
- Please direct any questions or requests to willowspac@gmail.com

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2014-15 PAC Chair Year End Report

The 2014-15 year at Willows PAC has been marked by many achievements, activities, and accomplishments – all of which should generate a great sense of pride for us.

- Although we had an uncertain start to the school year, we hit the ground running with a fantastic first week back at school. The ambassador parents for the PAC who hand out school supplies and help new parents and students find their classrooms are creating a wonderful first experience for all at Willows. The energetic return to our learning community is felt in the level of chatter between parents as they wait in the fast-moving line to pick up pre-ordered school supplies. A huge thank you goes out to the team for the hard work in making this program such a success.
- The Meet the Teacher night was a huge success. Lots of chatter with parents and kids playing on the play ground is evidence that the ice cream social is a hit. The kids especially liked the guessing games that were set up as they were going into the school. Thank you to Angela Jackson for her work in wrangling it all together!
- The lead up to the Holly Tree Festival was a bit rushed but really fun to be a part of... we had a small group to start with as we replaced many long time volunteers. But that also leads to new energy and new people getting involved, which is great. Many thanks to each of our area leaders, and in particular to Angela Jackson for her willingness to Chair the team. This is an event that has become a great tradition at our school and one that is really fun, really sustainable, and really speaks of our PAC values.
- I will take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to Wendy and the many ways she has contributed to our PAC activities this year. Her door is always open and I appreciate her willingness to talk through ideas and look at new processes.
- The executive this year was a wonderful group of thoughtful and positive parents. This executive was able to run our bussing pilot project; make head way to our long term project of play areas for the Cadboro Bay field; make efforts to build better working relationship with our school staff; discussed and surveyed the implementation process for wifi in our school; developed an approach for budget-planning based on our core values; put a plan in place to secure succession for all executive positions.
- In January, we had a very spirited discussion about our budgeting process, dreams for the future and lots of staff input which is really helpful when we are assessing the needs of the school and where PAC can make the most impact with our funds.
- In February we hosted a parent educator, the topic was supporting learning at home during school breaks, very fitting as Spring Break was just around the corner. Many thanks to Janine Roy. We are so very fortunate to have such an excellent resource in our local area.
- In April we hosted another parent educator – this time around Internet Safety. Darren Laur presented a fascinating workshop full of interesting facts, tips for parents around internet usage

and the great ways our kids can learn from this amazing tool, with some easy guidelines to follow to keep our kids safe.

As the year closes, two of the most exciting initiatives were around our long term projects. This year was a pilot year for bussing for field trips, where the PAC funded every division with a bus, which depending on class size turned into 2 or 3 bussed field trips per class. Teachers jumped right on board with this pilot and are very appreciative for this venture, which directly addresses the challenge to find drivers with the shifting family dynamics in our community. With our field trip funds and bussing, our yearly PAC investment is over \$13,000.

In addition to the bussing project, we made head way on our commitment to installing additional play areas on the Cadboro Bay field. In discussion with Ross Walker, facilities supervisor, and the helpful assistance of our Principal, Wendy Holob, we were able to get the ball rolling(no pun intended) with the ordering and installation of the GaGa Ball Pit, it should be ready for play in September. Both Ross and Wendy have helped shaped what an amphitheatre could look like on our grounds and have been open to other play structure ideas as well. This has been a very productive and positive relationship between the PAC, the administration and the board and I look forward to continued conversations.

I am so grateful to the excellent executive I got to work with this year. Angela Jackson, Vice-Chair; Angela, thank you for being the best cheerleader and organizer at our community events, and always stepping up to fill a need. Clint Lalaonde, Treasurer; Clint, your steadfast commitment to both our web presence and our finances was truly a gift, thank you. I know that you will be a great trainer for our new treasurer. Kirstin Semmens, Secretary; A big thank you to you, Kristin for maintaining our records and stepping up to extra duties that came up throughout the year. Thanks to our members at large Jacqueline Lines, Stephanie Novak and Chelsea Wozniak. Everyone on the executive had willing hearts ready to help in any way needed, but one thing I really appreciate was your willingness to lend your voice to the discussion.

We have a number of committee chairs in this PAC, who I'd also like to thank for their service in our school. Jacqueline Lines, Class rep coordinator and Bike to School week Chair; Julie Bent, Tea Party Parade Champion; David Erikson, Bike Rodeo Chair; Shannon Carmichael, Lice Check Coordinator; Michele Montgomery, Pizza/Sushi Day Coordinator; and Craig Mount, Earthquake Preparedness Coordinator. You are amazing. You are such willing group of people in a busy place. I see you volunteer to serve where there is a need to be met. Many, many thanks for your countless hours of service.

The thing I love about the PAC at Willows, is it's a group of parents who have come together to connect with each other, connect with their kid's learning and make a meaningful contribution to the school community. Thank you for a wonderful year and looking forward to the new adventures ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Bell
Willows PAC Chair

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